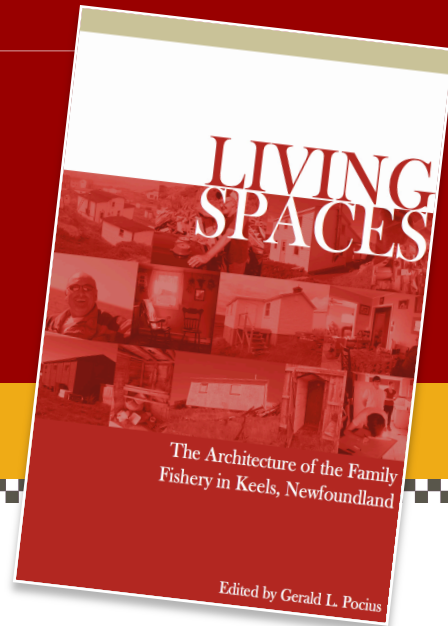


Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and notes on
Newfoundland and Labrador's
Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

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Living Spaces Launch March 18th

Most new students spend their first weeks of school in stuffy classrooms. But in a new program through the Department of Folklore at Memorial University, new graduate students spent their first days exploring a small Bonavista Bay fishing community. During the last three weeks of September 2012, the Department of Folklore introduced a new course for incoming graduate students on cultural documentation techniques.

"I decided that I would focus on the community of Keels in Bonavista Bay," says course organizer Dr. Gerald Pocius. "Unlike previous field courses, this one would actually take place outside the classroom, with students living away from their usual environments, focusing on a place and people different to most of them."

Timed to coincide with this year's 20th anniversary of the cod moratorium, the field school examined how outmigration and gentrification affected the traditional cultural landscape of the Bonavista region, focusing on the last two inshore fishing families in the community of Keels. Students lived in the town, and worked to document buildings, including homes, fisheries buildings and root cellars. Along the way they interacted with and interviewed locals about their lives and work. The results of the field school, including architectural drawings and descriptions of some of the spaces studied have been put together in a booklet, "Living Spaces: The Architecture of the Family Fishery in Keels, Newfoundland," edited by Pocius.

"Both the field school and the booklet have been a cooperative project between Memorial University and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador," says Dale Jarvis, folklorist with the foundation. "These types of partnerships are a great way to help students develop real-world skills, and to demonstrate to communities the type of research that is going on within the university. It also helps us with the foundation's mandate of promoting and preserving the important architectural and intangible cultural heritage of this province."

The booklet will be launched at a public event at 6pm, March 18th, 2013 at Bianca's, 171 Water Street, St. John's. The event is open to the public, though people are asked to RSVP with Christina Robarts at 739-1892 ext 7, or by email at christina@heritagefoundation.ca

The Hookers of Heart's Content

By Lisa Wilson

Every Tuesday afternoon up to fifty women meet in the Heart's Content Recreation Center. They sit at long tables, hold wooden frames in front of themselves, and get to work on rug hooking projects. This is the third year that this group of hookers has been meeting, and every year the group continues to grow. Women come in from several surrounding communities to join in, such as New Perlican, Winterton, and Carbonear. Hookers of all skill levels are welcome, and when their mats are complete, participating women have an opportunity to show their work. Last year's exhibit was a great success with rugs lining the walls of the community museum.

Ed Arnott, a Mizzen Heritage Society member, spoke with me about the value of making and showing hooked rugs.

"For the past two summers, the Mizzen Heritage Society has had a display at the Mizzen Heritage Museum. For the past two summers we've partnered with the ladies and we've had a rug hooking display on. A lot of them depicted the old train, or the old church that burned down, or some other aspects of history in Heart's Content and neighboring communities. That's a nice way to help preserve the heritage as well."

When I went to visit the Tuesday hookers, I was shown several exemplary work-in-progress mats. I immediately noticed that everyone was keeping images to a specific theme. Judy Arnott, who is very active with organizing the group, explained what the hookers are focusing on.

"There are over 50 hookers this year and our theme is women's work--different things that women would do. A lot of the girls are hooking making hay, turning the fish, hanging laundry, all those kinds of things. It's what women traditionally did in their communities."

Other scenes I noticed during my visit were images of outport women milking the cow, carrying water from the water tank, gardening, and quilting. Everyone I spoke with agreed that the hooked rugs are a great way to celebrate the hard work that women performed in Newfoundland for generations.



Judy pointed out that the hooking group itself also plays an important role for members of the community. Reflecting on her first year as a hooker she stated,

"We had a lot of fun with it. It was a great way for me to meet new people here, and I've made a lot of really good friends--nice, nice people. There's a good active social side to it."

Whether they are there to socialize, or to learn how to make this traditional handicraft, the hookers are consistently hard at work. I will surely be keeping an eye out for this year's exhibition to see all the lovely mats on display.

Photos: Joan Smith (top) and Suzy Smith (bottom). Photos by Lisa Wilson

International Women's Day

By Christina Roberts

International women's day on March 8th is a celebration and admiration of women and women's rights. Beginning as a socialist political event in 1909 by the American socialist party, it soon resonated with Europe and became a traditional holiday after the general meeting of the Socialist Second International in Copenhagen. Russia adopted the holiday in 1913, celebrating it on the last Sunday of February. However it wasn't officially established until 1965, under the decree of the USSR presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and was declared a non-working holiday. In the USSR it was meant to commemorate the merits and accomplishments of Soviet women. Following the Soviet revolution in 1917 the holiday began to be celebrated in other communist and socialist countries: China in from 1922 and Spain from 1936. The holiday was made popular in the West after 1977, when the UN declared it an international holiday for women's rights. Today in most Eastern-European countries the holiday is more of a mixture of Valentine's Day and Mother's day. For example, in Russia, Women's day it is a way for men to express their feelings for the women in their lives. It is a common tradition for men to give flowers to their wife, daughter, mother or sister. The following are some of the different ways and viewpoints of those I talked with regarding the day and its traditions.

Russia

O.V.: In March we have international women's day we celebrate it, but it's like women's day not, not like pretty much Soviet, but we didn't have mother's day or father's day in Soviet Union, so we had for women we have March the 8th so that was the day where all the men and boys gave flowers to their women, flowers and some presents, and so every girl in starting kindergarten (laughs) so they every women and girl have flowers or some postcards and some gifts and so that was very nice, and men helped them of course in the everyday chores so they were like nice you know on that day. Unfortunately it wasn't so that often (laughs).

Romania

Octavia: The 8th of March is the international women's day but I don't seem to see it very much celebrated here, I don't think so. Well there is an organization called Extraordinary Women in Newfoundland and they celebrate that but besides this organization I haven't heard of any other celebrations. Well as I said in the Ukraine this is a big celebration? It's not only a Soviet thing it's still international but it's not celebrated by Western families, but for us I think it was still a nice event I mean March 8th because in Romania all the ladies receive or get flowers or gifts, you see in the streets really every women would have flowers you know spring flowers so it's such a nice day, happy day you would say. Maybe everyone goes out to restaurant or going visit friends or you know or so it's a great day I would say.

Poland

Ania: I guess that's the part of growing up through one system becoming an adult through one and then coming to another country, I love the idea of International Women's day, I think it's a huge I mean I am a feminist I would be a hypocrite if I said something different I mean I'm independent, I work, I vote how could I not call myself a feminist right? But I don't like token holidays, it's like Valentine's day it's such a token holiday what does it even mean? Like what are you celebrating. I don't like March the 8th in terms of way the holiday people see the holiday in Poland, the way that men, men especially my father's age and older give carnation and box of chocolates and then still treat them as a lesser being for the rest of the year right. Right? I don't like that part of it, it's like you're giving your significant other bottle of wine, box of chocolate or jewelry on valentine's day and then you disrespect them or cheat on them the rest of the year? I don't like that but I like the idea of thinking about, talk about, that's the day to talk about how the history changed and how I can vote and decide for myself you know properly, I like that part of it you know I love it in that regard, I always send best wishes to my female friends on international women's day I but that's how I look at it, it would be a good day to become women's history day you know? To bring that back and tell oh no we never couldn't own stuff and we weren't our own, not per se, you went from being decided by your father to being decided by your husband, and it is a day great for women's history.



Postcard Image from: <http://postcardy.blogspot.ca/2011/03/international-womens-day-russia.html>

Creating Cultural Landscapes: A Lecture Series

By Lisa Wilson

In support of our heritage districts program, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is hosting Julian Smith for a guest lecture series. The concept of “cultural landscapes” is the integrative approach to community development where the local culture is considered and protected when changes occurs. Julian will be posing and unraveling some interesting questions for us: How does one relate both culture and nature to creative contemporary design and development? How can the cultural landscape concept be used to displace zoning and encourage organic, community-based planning activity? How can we overcome the strictures of hierarchy and classification? Julian will use national and international examples to explore

current developments in the cultural landscape field.

Julian Smith is an architect and planner who has a particular interest in cultural landscapes. He was Chief Architect for the National Historic Sites program of Parks Canada in the 1980s. He has worked in both urban and rural environments, developing heritage district studies for places such as the Byward Market in Ottawa, Kensington Market in Toronto, and communities in the Ottawa Valley, New Brunswick and Vermont. He currently runs the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and is co-author of the recent UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes.

Join us in Bay Roberts where Julian Smith will be discussing how to create and nurture cultural landscapes in our communities.

Where: Bay Roberts Visitors' Pavilion

When: 1:00-2:30 pm, Thursday, March 21st, 2013

Admission: Free

Julian will also be visiting Memorial University for a Synergy Session hosted by the Harris Center. This event will take place at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 20th, 2013. For more information about the location of this talk, please contact Lisa Wilson: lisa@heritagefoundation.ca, (709) 739-1892 ext. 3



Coffee and Culture: Root Cellars

March 14, 2:30pm

The Rooms Theatre

How do you keep vegetables fresh without electricity? In a root cellar of course! From use in years past to modern day, root cellars have become iconic in Newfoundland and Labrador. Folklorist Crystal Braye and Sarah Ferber from Root Cellars Rock will be at The Rooms to tell you all about them. Presented in collaboration with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Root cellar photo courtesy of Crystal Braye.



Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes Eastern-European Immigrants in 2013 Folklife Festival

When most people think about the culture of Newfoundland and Labrador they think about Jiggs Dinner, touts, and salt fish but rarely do they think about cabbage rolls, Czech gingerbread, and sauerkraut. Immigrant culture is an important part of our community that often goes unnoticed. Here in Newfoundland there is a strong international community, which is slowly growing.

This March, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL), in cooperation with Dr. Maryia Lesiv (Memorial University), wants to celebrate the culture of East-Europeans in Newfoundland. A series of oral history interviews, to be conducted in St. John's, will lead up to the 2013 Folklife Festival in St. John's, which will focus on exploring and celebrating the culture of new East-European-Canadians from the former Socialist countries in Newfoundland.

"Through this project we hope to share the culture and traditions of East-Europeans," says Christina Robarts, a public folklore intern with HFNL and a graduate student in Memorial University's Department of Folklore. "These are important traditions which are a part of their identity and culture. Those who I have talked to are always excited to share how these traditions are a way of maintaining their culture, despite moving and adapting to a new culture and environment."

The oral history project will take the form of interviews conducted by Robarts throughout the winter months. These interviews, along with any other documents found, will then be added to Memorial's University's Digital Archives Initiative. This archive will be accessible to the public online.

The events will be broken into three days and will take place in St. John's on March 20, 22, and 23.

March 20th is World Storytelling Day, a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling. That night The Rooms will host an evening storytelling event where new Canadian storytellers will be interviewed on stage, in a talk-show style session.

March 22nd will be a cultural concert night, a celebration of music, song, story, poetry, and food, allowing people to experience different aspects of culture. Participants will be from Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland, demonstrating different aspects of their home culture.

March 23 will be a Pierogi workshop where people can come and learn how to make pierogies from Mariya Lesiv.

HFNL would like to hear from anyone who is interested in sharing their stories as a new Canadian from Eastern-Europe, please email christina@heritagefoundation.ca or call, toll free, 1-888-739-1892 ext. 7

